

SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES.

ORDERS OF COURT.

February 19th, 1834.—On the opening of the Court, the Hon. B. F. Butler, Attorney-General of the United States, thus addressed the Court :

“Your honours are probably aware that the same sad event which yesterday occasioned the untimely adjournment of the court, was immediately followed by a special meeting of the bar.

“I have been charged by that meeting with the duty of bringing its proceedings to the notice of the court, and with your permission will now read them.”

Mr Chief Justice Marshall assenting, the Attorney-general then read said proceedings ; and thus resumed :

“The court will have perceived from the paper which has been read, that the duty of commemorating, in a formal discourse, the professional character and virtues of Mr WIRT, has been specially assigned to a distinguished member of this bar. Were it not for this becoming and appropriate arrangement, I might be tempted to give utterance to my high admiration of the talents, attainments and virtues of our illustrious brother, and to the sorrow with which, in common with every other member of the bar, I mourn over his removal from this scene of his usefulness and fame. Such an attempt, however, would be an indelicate, if not an improper encroachment upon a province which now belongs exclusively to another. And it therefore only remains that I should ask, in the name of the

assembled bar; and in reference to such a man as William Wirt, I feel that I may add, in the name of the whole legal profession of our extended country; that this humble tribute to ability and worth, this faint but sincere expression of deep regret, be incorporated in the records of this court."

To which Mr Chief Justice Marshall thus replied :

"The court received intelligence of the afflicting event which has produced the meeting of the bar and the application just made, with those emotions it was but too well calculated to excite. I am sure I utter the sentiments of all my brethren, when I say we participate sincerely in the feelings expressed from the bar. We too, gentlemen, have sustained a loss it will be difficult, if not impossible, to repair. In performing the arduous duties assigned to us, we have been long aided by the diligent research and lucid reasoning of him whose loss we unite with you in deploring. We too, gentlemen, in common with you, have lost the estimable friend in the powerful advocate.

"Most readily do we assent to the motion which has been made."

Whereupon it is ordered by the court that the following entry be made in the minutes, viz.

"It having been announced that Mr WILLIAM WIRT, a gentleman of this bar, highly distinguished for his learning and talents, departed this life yesterday in this city: resolved, that the resolutions now offered by the attorney-general on the part of the gentlemen of the bar, be placed on the records of this court.

"Resolved, that the judges of this court will wear the usual badge of mourning during the residue of the term, in token of their respect and regard for the memory of the deceased, and of their deep sense of this afflicting event."

And it is further ordered, that the said proceedings of the bar and officers be spread upon the records of this court, which are entered accordingly as follows:

"At a meeting of the gentlemen of the bar of the supreme

court of the United States, and of the officers of the court, at the court room in the capitol, on Tuesday the 18th February, the Hon. B. F. Butler, attorney-general of the United States, was called to the chair, and the Hon. John Sergeant was appointed secretary : whereupon Mr Webster rose and submitted the following resolutions, which were read and unanimously adopted, viz.

“Resolved, that the members of this bar feel, with deep sensibility, the loss which the profession and the country have sustained in the death of WILLIAM WIRT, a member of this bar, and heretofore, for many years, attorney-general of the United States.

“Resolved, that we cherish the highest respect for the professional learning of the deceased, for his varied talent and ability, for the purity and uprightness of his professional life, and for the amiable and excellent qualities which belonged to him as a man.

“Resolved, that to testify these sentiments, we will wear the usual badge of mourning for the residue of the term.

“Resolved, that a committee be appointed to offer to his bereaved and afflicted family the condolence and sympathy of his brethren of the bar, and to request that he may be interred in the city of Washington ; and that his professional brethren be permitted to raise a suitable monument to his memory.

“Resolved, that Mr Southard be requested to pronounce a discourse before the bar, upon the professional character and virtues of Mr WIRT ; at such time, during the present term, as may suit his convenience.

“Resolved, that the attorney-general do move the court that these resolutions be entered on the minutes of their proceedings.”

March 14th, 1834.—ORDERED, That the original opinions of the court delivered to the reporter be filed in the office of the clerk of the court for preservation ; as soon as the volume of the reports for the term at which they are delivered shall be published.